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ADOPTED

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
COUNTY OF LOS ANGELES

September 29, 2015

The Honorable Board of Supervisors
County of Los Angeles
383 Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration
500 West Temple Street
Los Angeles, California 90012

23 September 29, 2015


PATRICK OZAWA
ACTING EXECUTIVE OFFICER

Dear Supervisors:

**AUTHORIZATION TO ACCEPT AND IMPLEMENT A FORTHCOMING NOTICE OF AWARD AND FUTURE AWARDS AND/OR AMENDMENTS FROM THE CENTERS FOR DISEASE CONTROL AND PREVENTION TO SUPPORT HEALTH DEPARTMENTS TO REDUCE HIV INFECTIONS AND IMPROVE LINKAGE TO CARE IN CRITICAL POPULATIONS FOR THE PERIOD OF SEPTEMBER 30, 2015 THROUGH SEPTEMBER 29, 2018
(ALL SUPERVISORIAL DISTRICTS) (3 VOTES)**

SUBJECT

Provide authorization to accept and implement a forthcoming award and future awards and/or amendments from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to support Health Departments to Reduce HIV Infections and Improve Engagement in HIV Medical Care among Men Who Have Sex with Men and Transgender Persons for the period of September 30, 2015 through September 29, 2018.

IT IS RECOMMENDED THAT THE BOARD:

1. Delegate authority to the Interim Director of the Department of Public Health (DPH), or her designee, to accept and implement a forthcoming Notice of Award (NA) from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) resulting from CDC-RFA-PS15-1506, Health Department Demonstration Projects to Reduce HIV Infections and Improve Engagement in HIV Medical Care among Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) and Transgender Persons (Health Department Demonstration Projects) for the anticipated period of September 30, 2015 through September 29, 2018, at a total amount estimated not to exceed \$21,000,000, subject to review and approval by County Counsel, and notification to your Board and the Chief Executive Office (CEO).
2. Delegate authority to the Interim Director of DPH, or her designee, to accept future awards

and/or amendments that are consistent with the requirements of the forthcoming NA referenced above that extend the term through September 29, 2020; reflect non-material and/or ministerial revisions to the award's terms and conditions; allow for the rollover of unspent funds and/or redirection of funds; adjust the term of the award through March 30, 2021; and/or provide an increase or decrease in funding up to 25 percent above or below each grant term's annual base amount, subject to review and approval by County Counsel, and notification to your Board and the CEO.

PURPOSE/JUSTIFICATION OF RECOMMENDED ACTION

Approval of Recommendation 1 will allow DPH to accept forthcoming CDC funds to support Health Department Demonstration Projects.

The purpose of the Health Department Demonstration Projects is to support health departments in the United States (U.S.) to implement Pre-exposure prophylaxis (PrEP) and Data to Care demonstration projects prioritizing MSM and transgender persons at high risk for HIV infection, particularly persons of color, recognizing that the population with the highest incidence of HIV in the U.S. is young Black MSM.

These actions are consistent with and will contribute to the long term goals of the National HIV/AIDS Strategy of reducing HIV incidence, optimizing health outcomes, and reducing health disparities, the Los Angeles County (LAC) DPH Division of HIV and STD Programs (DHSP) proposes to strengthen its integrated, coordinated response to the local HIV/AIDS epidemic using a comprehensive set of interventions across the continuum of HIV prevention and care, targeting those individuals at highest risk of HIV.

DHSP will support the implementation of PrEP as part of a comprehensive and customized prevention package, and enhance existing elements of linkage, re-engagement, and retention strategies for persons diagnosed with HIV infection to maximize engagement in HIV medical care in order to improve health outcomes and reduce community viral load.

The overall goals of this project are:

- 1) Increase the number of high-risk MSM and transgender persons who are knowledgeable about biomedical HIV prevention. A robust bilingual (English and Spanish) social marketing campaign will be developed and maintained to communicate PrEP-related information to consumers, especially individuals from disenfranchised and highly impacted communities. In addition, training will be provided for non-clinical staff for screening and referrals.
- 2) Ensure access to comprehensive HIV biomedical prevention services for MSM, transgender persons, and other persons at high risk of HIV in LAC. PrEP-specific training and technical support for clinical providers will be provided and PrEP programs implemented in STD clinics in high-burden areas within LAC. Available services will also include access to low-cost or no-cost PrEP services for uninsured persons by leveraging other funding.
- 3) Utilize surveillance data to locate, link, and re-engage HIV-diagnosed MSM and transgender persons with consistent HIV medical care. Protocols and standard operating procedures for using HIV surveillance sources will be generated to determine appropriate targeted HIV-diagnosed MSM and transgender individuals not in HIV medical care for linkage and re-engagement services.

4) Create and expand services to locate, engage, or re-engage HIV-diagnosed MSM and transgender persons who are out of care and/or are virally unsuppressed. Implementation of a linkage and re-engagement program will focus on both locating and linking to care newly diagnosed, lost-to-care, and never-in-care HIV-positive individuals in LAC. Using HIV surveillance data, data from the LAC Sheriff's Department, and community partner referrals, clients will be located, contacted, and, through a tailored intervention, linked or re-engaged in HIV medical care.

5) Increase capacity of DHSP to integrate services and share data across HIV, STD, and Hepatitis reporting systems to identify persons at high risk who could benefit from biomedical prevention and linkage, engagement, and re-engagement in care strategies. This shall also include the development and implementation of policies, procedures, and protocols for integrating and sharing data across HIV/STD and Hepatitis to identify and refer MSM and transgender persons for PrEP services or HIV medical care as appropriate.

Approval of Recommendation 2 will allow DPH to accept future awards and/or amendments that are consistent with the requirements of the forthcoming NAs to extend and/or adjust the term of the award; reflect non-material revisions to terms and conditions; rollover unspent funds and/or redirect funds; and/or provide an increase or decrease in funding up to 25 percent above or below each grant term's annual base amount. This recommended action will enable DPH to accept future awards and/or amendments that adjust the project period up to six months beyond the original term, in those instances where there has been an unanticipated extension of the term to allow additional time to complete services and utilize grant funding. This authority is being requested to enhance DPH's efforts to expeditiously maximize grant revenue, consistent with Board Policy 4.070: Full Utilization of Grant Funds.

Implementation of Strategic Plan Goals

The recommended actions support Goal 3, Integrated Services Delivery, of the County's Strategic Plan.

FISCAL IMPACT/FINANCING

DPH will accept a forthcoming NA from the CDC for the anticipated period of September 30, 2015 through September 29, 2018, at a total amount estimated not to exceed \$21,000,000, consisting of \$7,000,000 for the period of September 30, 2015 through September 29, 2016; \$7,000,000 for the period of September 30, 2016 through September 29, 2017; and \$7,000,000 for the period of September 30, 2017 through September 29, 2018. These funds will support DPH personnel costs, operating expenses, social marketing activities related to increasing community and clinical provider awareness of biomedical interventions (PrEP and Post-exposure prophylaxis), and indirect costs.

Funding is included in DPH's fiscal year (FY) 2015 – 16 Adopted Budget, and will be included in future FYs, as necessary.

FACTS AND PROVISIONS/LEGAL REQUIREMENTS

On March 31, 2015, the CDC released Funding Opportunity Announcement (FOA) CDC-RFA-PS15-1506, "Health Department Demonstration Projects to Reduce HIV Infections and Improve Engagement in HIV Medical Care among Men Who Have Sex with Men (MSM) and Transgender

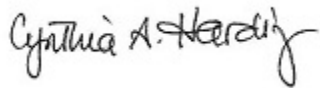
Persons.” On May 31, 2015, DPH submitted an application for funding.

Eligibility for funding under this FOA was limited to health departments whose jurisdiction included one or more of the 32 Metropolitan Statistical Areas(MSD)/Metropolitan Divisions (MD) in which there were greater than 3,000 MSMs living with diagnosed HIV by year-end 2010. Los Angeles County was one of the MD eligible to apply with an estimated 31,392 MSM living with diagnosed HIV by year-end 2010, 10 times above the minimum threshold required to apply under the FOA.

IMPACT ON CURRENT SERVICES (OR PROJECTS)

Approval of the recommended actions will allow DPH to accept funds from the CDC for the CDC Health Demonstration Projects focused on increasing local capacity to offer comprehensive and robust PrEP services, identifying those with HIV who are unaware of their status and linking and retaining them in care, and ultimately reducing numbers of new HIV diagnoses, suppressing HIV viral load, and improving overall health outcomes by reducing health disparities among communities of color in LAC.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Cynthia A. Harding". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Cynthia A. Harding, M.P.H.

Interim Director

CAH:fs

c: Interim Chief Executive Office
Interim County Counsel
Acting Executive Officer, Board of Supervisors